3 Dec 2013 Email Submission by Suzanne Sullivan:

Dear Matt,

Please see below my description and attached photos of the Red Necked

Stint I observed at Sandy Point Plum Island on the morning of June 27,

2013.

This RNST was the only sandpiper on the whole point. The tide was low.

I was walking out to the very end of the point where the water drains

from the flat into the sound to photograph an interesting gull when

this bird caught my eye. Needless to say I never did photograph the

gull. When I first saw this bird I thought it was a Sanderling in full

breeding plumage. A plumage we see but not that often, so I wanted a

few photos. As I got closer I realized something was off for

Sanderling. With nothing to compare it to I was confused by the size

and shape. It looked so attenuated in the rear end, but I have seen

Sanderlings look attenuated to some degree. Luck would have it I just

stood still and this little guy just kept walking closer and closer as

it worked the dry edge of the water. As I took photo after photo I was

struggling to see if it had the hind toe. I could not see it in

several of the photos I recalled on the camera. Finally I got one that

showed the hind toe. Still I kept trying to talk my self out of

Red-necked Stint. One would think for such an easy id I would have

just known straight out, I guess maybe I could not believe my eyes,

what are the chances? Such a nice one too! I went through all the ID

points, short, almost SESP like bill, short legs, attenuated in rear,

good primary projection, and of course that red throat!

The gull I was interested originally was chased by a HERG, the

commotion scared the stint and it flew way down to the other side of

the flats. It was foggy and some what desolate that morning, so

considering a creepy guy was at the other end of the flats, I decided

to go look at my field guide in the truck. I felt I got what I needed

for photos but had to double check with the field guide.

Photos attached.

Submitted by,

Suzanne M. Sullivan

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